



GWPO SPONSORING PARTNERS

24th Annual Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners

to the Global Water Partnership Organisation

Stockholm, Sweden

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

MINUTES

Approved electronically by December 18th, 2025

WWW.gwp.org

Global Water Partnership (GWP), Global Secretariat, Linnégatan 89A, SE-104 51 Stockholm, Sweden
Phone: +46 (0)8 121 386 00, Fax: + 46 (0)8 121 386 04, e-mail: gwp@gwp.org

Minutes

1. Welcome and Introduction, Apologies Received, Quorum Confirmed & Approval of Agenda

The Chair of the Sponsoring Partners, Mr. Tobias Axerup, opened the virtual Annual GWP Sponsoring Partners Meeting 2025 and warmly welcomed all participants, together with the Chair of GWP, Mr. Pablo Bereciartua.

All participants were then invited for a quick "round the table" introduction.

1.1: Apologies received

Mr. Axerup noted that Denmark had declined the invitation to attend the 24th Sponsoring Partners meeting.

1.2: Quorum confirmed

Mr. Axerup further confirmed that a quorum of Sponsoring Partners was reached. Argentina, Chile, Hungary, Jordan, Netherlands, Pakistan, Sweden and WMO were present.

1.3: Approval of Agenda

2025/GWPSP/June/Decision 1:
The meeting Agenda was approved.

2. Matters arising/updates from Minutes from the 23rd Annual Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners in Stockholm on 19th June 2024

The Chair of the Sponsoring Partners noted that, according to the procedure of electronic approval of the Sponsoring Partners Minutes on a no objection basis after each meeting, the Minutes from the 23rd Annual Sponsoring Partners Meeting had been approved as of January 29th, 2025.

No further comments related to the Minutes were raised.

2.1: Update on decisions taken since last SP meeting

Four decisions had been made electronically by the Sponsoring Partners since the last SP meeting and were noted.

Sponsoring Partners Distance Communication Decisions

Since 19th June 2024 Meeting

Agenda item 2.1

	Decisions	Adoption date
1	<p>The Annual Financial Report 2023 was approved on a no-objection basis.</p> <p>The recommendation of the GWP Auditors to discharge the GWP Steering Committee Members and the Executive Secretary of liability for 2023 was approved on a no objection basis.</p> <p>The Auditor's report 2023 and the Management Letter were received and considered.</p>	29 th July 2024
2	<p>The re-appointment of the 5 Steering Committee members named below, to serve for a second term, i.e December 2024 – December 2027, was approved on a no objection basis:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Illagan • Nchedi Moripe • Ndey Bakurin • Paulette Bynoe • Roula Majdalani <p>The above renewal of terms was an exceptional action, designed to increase and prioritize continuity, stability, and austerity of our global Steering Committee during a critical time of transition.</p>	18 th December 2024
3	The Minutes of the Sponsoring Partners meeting 19 th June 2024 were approved on a no objection basis.	29 th January 2025
4	Mr. Pablo Bereciartua's re-appointment as Chair of GWP was approved on a no objection basis. Mr. Bereciartua's second, and by that last term of service, is valid from July 1st, 2025 to June 30th, 2028.	14 th February 2025

3. Information and Approval of GWP Reports for 2024

The floor was given to the Executive Secretary and the CFO to present the 2024 GWP activities and financial situation.

3.1: GWP Annual Activity and Financial Reports 2024

The GWP Executive Secretary, Mr. Alex Simalabwi, presented a number of activity highlights from the GWP Annual Activity Report 2024.

Key headline results

- **Approx. 140 million EUR** of water-related investments can be linked to GWP's work
- **58 water governance improvements** influenced by GWP activities
- **16 policies, plans and strategies** at national, regional and river basin levels
- **11 transboundary river basin agreements** and management frameworks

Advancing water solutions for the SDGs

- **Water & Climate Finance Plans:** Developed response strategies and financing plans addressing water and climate bottlenecks in Nepal, Palestine, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda.
- **Valuing Water in Tanzania:** Conducted economic analysis showing water contributes at least 3.3% of GDP; emphasized need to integrate shadow value in national accounts.
- **Global Leadership:** Co-chaired the UN-Water Innovation Task Force to drive progress on SDG 6 through innovation. Example: Web-based decision-support integrating local and earth observation data for early warning in the Volta Basin
- **Data-driven prioritization:** Co-developed 2024 SDG6.5.1 mid-term report with UN-Water and UNEP – revealed global water sustainability may not be achieved before 2049 without increased financial investment.



Building climate resilience for water security

- **Boosting climate-resilient water investments:** The Green Climate Fund approved USD6.2M to develop Climate-Resilient Water Investment **Programmes** across 15 African countries in partnership with the Africa Union, and an additional USD800k for similar efforts in Montenegro.
- **Funding Leverage:** Leveraging GWP's investment planning, pipeline development, and capacity building support, Somalia secured USD94.9M for climate-resilient agriculture from the GCF, benefiting 2.1M people.
- **Blended Finance Progress:** Under AU-AIP, a SADC regional water finance facility was designed, seeking USD55M in concessional GCF funding, co-financed by public-private partners.
- **Global Drought Policy Influence:** UNCCD COP16 resolution mandated GWP, WMO, and IDMP to enhance drought monitoring by integrating aridity, shaping global drought policy and management systems.



Facilitating transboundary water cooperation

- **Joint River Basin Cooperation:** Malawi, Tanzania, and Mozambique signed an MoU for joint management and development of the Ruvuma/Rovuma River Basin, spanning three SADC countries.
- **Drin Basin Strategic Action Programme:** Launched a USD 7.1M GEF project to enhance transboundary cooperation and integrated natural resource management.
- **Water Law Capacity Building:** Delivered Pan-Africa Water Governance and International Water Law Training in partnership with UNECE, GEF IW:LEARN, and others.



Mainstreaming gender equality

- **Sri Lanka's Gender-Responsive Climate Investment Planning:** Climate Smart Green Growth Strategy and Investment Plan includes gender-focused indicators to track equality outcomes.
- **Chile's Gender-Responsive Regional and Sectoral Climate Planning:** Gender embedded in Regional Climate Change Action Plans, and in Sectoral Mitigation and Adaptation Plans for mining and transport.
- **Gender Balance in Somalia's Climate Finance Governance:** Balanced representation of women and men in Inter-Ministerial Technical Committee for Climate Change, and Sectoral Working Groups for Climate Finance Programming. Gender aspects integrated into job descriptions within the GCF National Designated Authority.



Mobilising youth for water management

- **Youth Empowered in Climate Lawmaking:** In Honduras, young professionals actively contributed to the development of the Climate Change Law.
- **Youth Engagement through Climate Internships:** In China, youth engaged in an internship and exchange programme with the Belt and Road Working Committee.
- **Youth Leadership in Transboundary Water Governance:** Youth leaders co-designed strategies for inclusive governance and innovation across the Danube River Basin at the Danube Youth Leadership Stakeholders Roundtable.



Working with the private sector

- **Leveraging Private Sector Leadership for Water Data Innovation:** Global companies joined international organizations and stewardship networks in a public-private roundtable to drive improvements in water management data.
- **Mobilizing Private Sector Investment Through Climate Finance Strategy:** The Central African Republic validated its Private Sector Engagement Strategy and Action Plan, creating a pathway to attract private sector investments by leveraging concessional international climate finance.
- **Advancing Corporate Water Stewardship Through Innovation :** a groundbreaking groundwater conservation project was designed, launched in 2025, that contributes to Microsoft



The Chair of the Sponsoring Partners noted that he was impressed with the richness of significant activities presented, especially related to the engagement with the private sector, and asked what the most difficult areas are related to this work.

The Executive Secretary responded that the private sector engagement indeed involves challenges, especially in the global south where the private sector work is underdeveloped and met by quite some suspicion. A big task is to level the playing field between the private and the public sectors. Information and knowledge sharing have proven to be difficult so that is a major area for development. Engaging with the private sector, as users of water but also as "abusers without fair compensation", would bring significant opportunities for co-investments in water security. GWP has a role to play here, supporting investments at scale which would become a win-win situation for the private, as well as the public/governance sectors.

The WMO representative noted that he was impressed by the variety of areas GWP is involved in and the presented tangible outputs. He also acknowledged the challenges related to working with the private sector and the mixed bag of players.

The CFO then presented an overview of the financial situation for 2024.

2024 Annual Financial Report

HIGHLIGHTS

- Total Income 2024 (unrestricted and restricted) = €7,732,874
- Total Expenditure 2024 (unrestricted and restricted)=€8,400,649
- Overall Deficit 2024=€667,774
- Unlocked Reserve Fund =€326,276
- Net Deficit 2024 =€374,751 (to be carried over to 2025)

The Deficit for 2024 will be rolled over to the 2025 budget

MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE DEFICIT

1. The utilisation of unspent Sida funds from 2024 amounting to EUR 119,000 (negotiations underway)
2. Anticipated surplus in 2025 of EUR 131,900
3. Savings of EUR 80,000 resulting from the non-renewal of staff contracts
4. The expected signing of pipeline projects later in the year, estimated at EUR 70,000.

2025/GWPSP/June/Decision 2:

The GWP Annual Activity Report and the Annual Financial Report for 2024 of the Steering Committee to the Sponsoring Partners were received and approved by the Sponsoring Partners.

3.2: GWP Audit Report 2024

Rebecca Ersryd, Associate Partner & Authorized Public Accountant, Ernst and Young, was invited to present the GWP Audit Report 2024 to the Sponsoring Partners, together with the GWPO CFO.

Update on audit report and management letter

The signed audit report and Management Letter from EY will be available before 30 of June 2025.

The audit is in its final stage and an unqualified audit opinion is expected, the unsigned audit report has been uploaded.

The areas of audit focus are:

- Reserve Fund	- Currency exchange rates
- Going Concern	- Reporting from RWP
- Legal Claims	- Risk assessments in RWP
- Equity	- Management Fees

The main issue related to the "the going concern principle" GWPO presented a cashflow and clear plan outlining how it will continue its operations and secure financing for at least the next 12 months from the date of the audit report.

Ms. Ersryd said that since no unrestricted funding is confirmed for the coming years, a "going concern" has been noted by the Auditors. GWPO's critical financial situation needs full focus going forward.

Ms. Ersryd confirmed that the GWP Audit Report 2024 will be unqualified, and a signed version will be available as soon as the GWP Chair, Executive Secretary, Chair of the Audit & Finance Subcommittee and Ernst and Young have signed it.

The GWPO CFO noted that related to the "going concern", the Steering Committee has approved a staff cost recovery policy, for GWPO to be able to better recover staff costs going forward. More attention will also be put on getting the regional audit reports on time since this is an area which slows down the whole GWPO auditing process.

The GWP Audit Report 2024 were received and considered by the Sponsoring Partners.

3.3: Discharge of liability of the Steering Committee Members and the Executive Secretary

2025/GWPSP/June/Decision 3:

The recommendation of the GWP Auditors to discharge the GWP Steering Committee Members and the Executive Secretary of liability for 2024 was approved by the Sponsoring Partners.

3.4: Update on process to appoint new External Auditors

The GWPO CFO presented an update on the tender process for a new GWPO auditor.

Update on audit tender

- Our current auditor, **Ernst & Young**, has informed us they are unable to audit **GWPO's 2025 accounts**.
- A procurement process was launched on **1 April 2025**.
- In the end, only **one valid bid** remained, as the second bidder withdrew after clarifying the requirements.
- The **Audit and Finance Sub-Committee (AFSC)** considered whether to proceed with the single bid or reopen the tender.
- The matter was escalated to the **Steering Committee**, which referred it back to the AFSC for further review.
- A **document for decision** was circulated to the AFSC on **23 June**, recommending a new tender to ensure a **fair, transparent, and competitive process** that meets the expectations of our donors.
- The final auditor proposal will be shared for electronic approval by **30 August 2025**.

4. GWP Chair Annual Report

The GWP Chair gave a brief update on the year that had passed since the last meeting. With the resignation of the former Executive Secretary, Mr. Alan AtKisson, the Chair noted that he was very pleased with the appointment of Mr. Alex Simalabwi as the new Executive Secretary as of February 1st, 2025.

High commitment from global allies and leaders, the GWP Steering Committee and regions, the Sponsoring Partners etc, has been impressed for the GWP Transformation and Transition Agenda. A number of GWPO Secretariat positions will be decentralised to regions, a GWPO Transition office has been established in Pretoria, South Africa, work is ongoing related to identifying a new GWPO host country and the development of the new 2026 - 2030 Strategy is being adapted to the new circumstances we are facing.

After an extended very tough time, it now seems like the organisation is developing in a very promising direction.

The Executive Secretary noted the very much appreciated support and leadership from the Sponsoring Partners. The rotation of GWPO leadership during the last 5 years has created an unstable working environment and lack of long-term development and commitment. Now, the organisation is stabilizing, lessons have been learnt. The funding model is shifting from core to programmatic. Tremendous opportunities are lying ahead for the organisation. GWPO as an intergovernmental organisation will raise to the global position it should have. The Executive Secretary noted that he looks forward to receiving continued political advice from the Sponsoring Partners.

5. Update on GWPO Transition plan and potential hosting options

The Executive Secretary presented *The Global Transformation Agenda for a Water Secure World*.

In February 2025, in light of an increasing global climate emergency and increasing challenges on water security, floods, droughts, and water shortages, the GWP Steering Committee adopted resolutions for the Global Transformation Agenda for water security in the context of a global climate emergency.

In GWP's previous strategy, Euro 1.5 billion investments were leveraged for countries on climate resilience through GWPO supported investments.

By 2030, at least USD 15 billion in climate resilient water investments will be leveraged by GWPO as part of the Global Transformation Agenda.

Resolution 1: Global Transformation Council established

- The Global Transformation Council (GTC) will lead high-level engagement with **leaders of G20 member countries, MDBS, Climate Funds** and other global leaders for the **transformation of water security investments in the context of a global climate emergency**.
- **GTC will comprise current and former Heads of State, MDBS, global leaders**, and high-level representatives from the public and private sectors.
- **Hon. Pemmy Majodina**, South Africa Minister of Water and Sanitation accepted to join as a member, in her capacity as G20 President Minister responsible for water and sanitation.



**Co-chair: H.E. Jakaya Kikwete
Former President, Tanzania**

Resolution 2: Decentralising GWPO into 4 Continental Technical Support Hubs embedded into GWP Regions:

1. **Africa** - located in South Africa – embedded within GWP Southern Africa
2. **Asia-Pacific** - located in Indonesia – embedded in GWP South-East Asia
3. **Europe** - located in Greece – embedded in GWP Mediterranean
4. **Latin America & the Caribbean** – located in Brazil or Uruguay - embedded in GWP South America

The four Hubs will support GWP Regional Water Partnerships in their efforts to drive water security investments as part of the Global Transformation Agenda.

Resolution 3: Establishing GWPO Strategic Partnership Liaison Envoys 'Consular offices' to lead GWPO diplomatic engagement and leverage its IGO status on water

1. **Washington D.C./New York**-Diplomatic relations with World Bank, United Nations
2. **Brussels, Belgium**-Diplomatic relations with the EU
3. **Beijing, China**-Diplomatic relations with China, South Korea, Japan, Australia, New Zealand
4. **Geneva, Switzerland**-Diplomatic relations with WMO, UN Agencies and Switzerland
5. **Stockholm, Sweden**-Diplomatic relations with Sweden and Nordic countries, as well as non-EU Countries; UK, Canada..

Resolution 4: GWPO inviting new Sponsoring Partners to join the Organisation

- GWPO came into existence in 2002 after eight states and two international organisations listed below called Sponsoring. New Countries can join by signing a GWPO memorandum of understanding (MoU)
- Sponsoring Partners have no financial obligation to the organisation.

1. The Kingdom of Sweden	6. The Kingdom of Jordan
2. The Kingdom of the Netherlands	7. The Islamic Republic of Pakistan
3. The Kingdom of Denmark	8. The Argentine Republic
4. Republic of Chile	9. The World Bank
5. Hungary	10. World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

On March 17th, 2025, a GWPO Transition Office opened in Pretoria, South Africa, to manage the transition and lead on the Global Transformation Agenda.

The current Host Institution agreement with Sweden will come to an end by May 22nd, 2026. Discussions are ongoing with South Africa, China, Namibia, Italy, Indonesia, Canada and France who has all expressed an initial interest of possibly joining as a Sponsoring Partner, to see if there would be a possibility for hosting GWPO. Diplomatic events will be held in Stockholm, Geneva, and Johannesburg during the autumn of 2025 to further raise awareness of GWP and attract countries to become a GWPO Sponsoring Partner.

The Chair of the Sponsoring Partners noted that the efforts of repositioning the organisation is impressive.

It was further noted by some of the participants:

- If the changes to the GWP/GWPO Statutes will be approved, it will mean that GWPO can be hosted in more than one country. One part of the operations could be hosted by one country and another part could be hosted by a second country.
- As a host, Sweden has provided GWPO with a culture of trust, values, and neutrality, paid the office rent, reimbursed taxes for staff salaries, provided required permits for staff to be able to reside and work in Sweden tec. It will be difficult to find a new host providing GWPO with everything Sweden has done.
- What will be the time frame of the transition plan?
The Executive Secretary noted that a new Host Institution Agreement can not enter into force until May 23rd 2026, the day after the Swedish agreement has been terminated.
The transition plan will run for maximum 3 years, to align with the new strategy, regional work plans etc.
The process of finding a new host will not be rushed, we need to find the right place for GWPO.

The Chair of the Sponsoring Partners emphasised that Sweden's provided support of paying GWPO's office rent, reimbursing staff salary taxes etc, will end by May 22nd, 2026.

6. GWP Governance reform – update on progress and the way forward

Amendments to statutes:

The Executive Secretary presented the process and proposed amendments to the GWP and GWPO statutes.

Adoption Process of the Amendments to the GWP and GWPO Statutes

- Article 17: a resolution outlining the **proposed amendments** to the GWP and GWPO Statutes are **presented to registered GWP Partners and submitted for a formal vote** during the Network Meeting (General Assembly).
- Adoption of the amendments requires **approval by at least two-thirds of the Network Meeting**.
- The same **resolution is presented to the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners**, where a unanimous decision is sought for **final adoption**.
- Article IV of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the Global Water Partnership Organisation of 2002

Amendments to the GWP and GWPO Statutes **enter into force one year after** the Sponsoring Partners' decision.

Article 1(3): Legal Status, Article 12: Location, Article 13 Privileges and immunities

- The proposed amendments aim to facilitate the decentralisation of GWPO.
- To enable **GWPO to establish its presence across multiple countries**, the Statutes must provide the legal basis for concluding Headquarters Agreements with more than one State.
- They also seek to ensure that GWPO staff are granted the necessary privileges and immunities in all countries where the Secretariat is located.

Current articles in the 2012 GWP & GWPO Statutes	Recommended Amendments ¹ for the 2025 GWP & GWPO Statutes
<p>Article 1: LEGAL STATUS</p> <p>Article 1(3) currently reads as follows The Organisation shall possess full legal personality under international law and enjoy such capacities as may be necessary to exercise its functions in the fulfilment of the objective set out in Article 2. Its status under the national law of the Host State of the Secretariat will be provided in a Headquarters Agreement between that State and the Organisation.</p>	<p>Article 1: LEGAL STATUS</p> <p>Article 1(3) shall be amended as follows: <i>The Organisation shall possess full legal personality under international law and enjoy such capacities as may be necessary to exercise its functions in the fulfilment of the objective set out in Article 2. Its status under the national law of a Host State/s of the Secretariat will be provided in a Headquarters Agreement between that State and the Organisation.</i></p>

Current articles in the 2012 GWP& GWPO Statutes	Recommended Amendments ¹ for the 2025 GWP & GWPO Statutes
<p>Article 12: LOCATION</p> <p>Article 12 currently reads as follows The Secretariat of the Organisation shall be located in Stockholm.</p>	<p>Article 12: LOCATION</p> <p>Article 12 shall be amended as follows: The Secretariat of the Organisation shall be virtual, or located within a host organisation, or in the State/s where the Organisation has entered into a headquarters agreement with the government of that State.</p>

Current articles in the 2012 GWP& GWPO Statutes	Recommended Amendments ¹ for the 2025 GWP & GWPO Statutes
<p>Article 13 PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES</p> <p>Article 13 currently reads as follows The Organisation and its staff shall enjoy such privileges and immunities in the Host State as shall be stipulated in the Headquarters Agreement referred to in Article 1, paragraph 3.</p>	<p>Article 13 PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES</p> <p>Article 13 shall be amended as follows: The Organisation and its staff shall enjoy such privileges and immunities in the Host State/s as shall be stipulated in the Headquarters Agreement referred to in Article 1, paragraph 3, and Article 12 above</p>

Article 8 (5): The Nomination Committee

- Amendments to Article 8(5) are intended to improve the **efficiency of the GWP Nominations Committee's mandate.**
- The Committee is responsible for nominating the GWP Chair, Steering Committee members, and both External and Internal Auditors, with final appointments made by the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners.

2025/GWPSP/June/Decision 4:

Pursuant to Article 17 of the GWP and GWPO Statutes and Article IV of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the Global Water Partnership Organisation of 2002, the Sponsoring Partners:

- A. Unanimously approved the proposed amendments to the Statutes as unanimously approved by the GWP Network Meeting, effective from 22nd May 2025.
- B. Unanimously approved that the proposed amendments to the GWP and GWPO Statutes will enter into force on 22nd May 2026, one year after the decision of the Network Meeting.

Open call for new Sponsoring Partners to join GWP launched:

The Executive Secretary noted that the open call for new Sponsoring Partners to join GWPO had been launched on June 2nd, 2025, through officially opening the intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for signature, for the first time in over 20 years. As previously noted during the meeting, diplomatic events will be held in Stockholm, Geneva and Johannesburg during the autumn of 2025 to further raise awareness of GWP and attract

countries to become a GWPO Sponsoring Partner.

This marks a historic opportunity to shape global water policy for a water-secure world.

By joining GWPO, Sponsoring Partners demonstrate the unity and resolve required to tackle the water crisis.

A package has been prepared and is available on the GWP website, in relation to the call for new Sponsoring Partners:

<https://gwpo-gwp.org/news/gwpo-opens-intergovernmental-mou-for-signature>

Steering Committee members rotation:

The Executive Secretary noted that a moratorium on Steering Committee members rotation had been proposed to the Sponsoring Partners for their approval, as part of the ongoing organisational transition.

In February 2024, at the meeting of the GWP Steering Committee it was decided to enact a set of structural and organizational reforms based on a governance review of GWP. The GWP Governance review was initiated in 2023 and concluded in early 2024 by the consultant Judith Sargentini. The GWP Governance reform recommended the need to update the GWP Statutes' various bylaws provisions, governing appointments as part of the GWP reform.

In June 2024, during their Annual Meeting, the Sponsoring Partners recommended that, in the context of the governance reform, the GWP Steering Committee pauses any rotation or nomination of Steering Committee members, within its rank during the transition period of GWP to ensure maintenance of 'stability and knowledge on various topics' and to limit 'disruption'.

As a follow up to the recommendation of the Sponsoring Partners, in August 2024 the GWP Steering Committee agreed to maintain the current membership for 'one year' as a matter of 'urgency'.

In February 2025, the GWP Steering Committee initiated the Global Transformation agenda as a comprehensive process for the governance reform and repositioning of GWPO.

2025/GWPSP/June/Decision 5:

The presented moratorium on the rotation schedule for all Steering Committee members were approved, to be in effect for a period not exceeding 31st December 2027.

7. GWP 2026-2030 Strategy, including new GWPO organogram

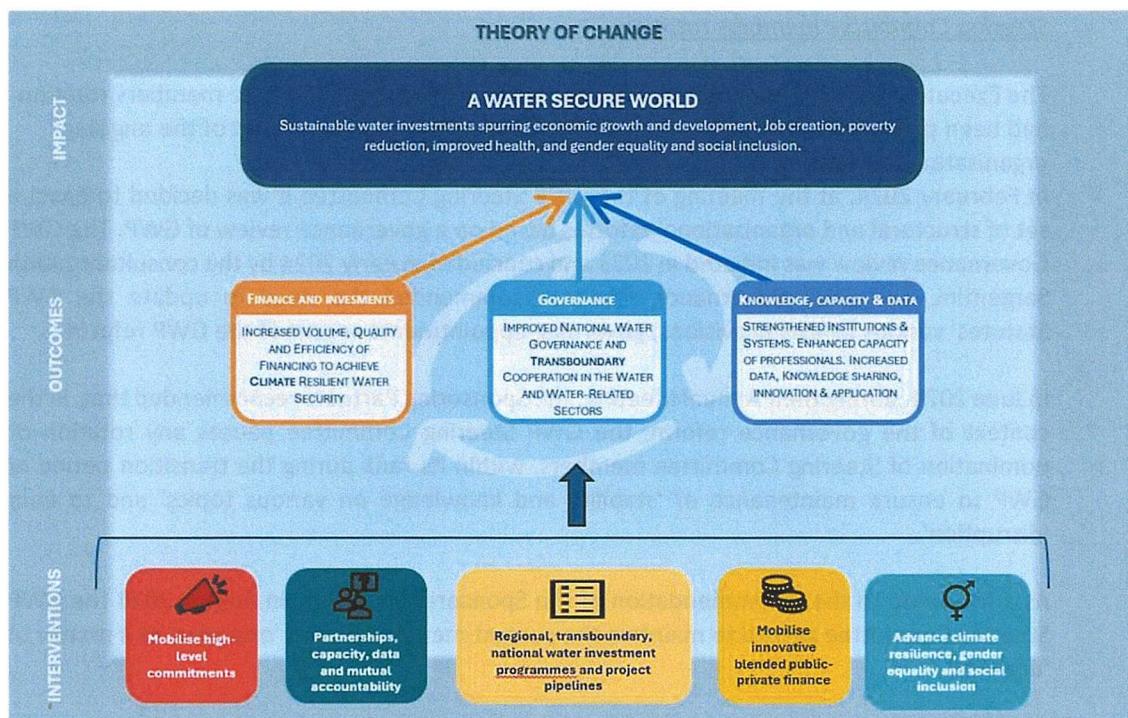
The Executive Secretary presented the GWP 2026 - 2030 Strategy, including a new GWPO organogram.

- Achieving water security for all by 2030 requires urgent and bold action to close a staggering annual investment gap of over \$140 billion.
- The global water crisis is estimated to threaten \$58 trillion in economic value of water, food security and sustainability - equivalent to 60% of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

- Broader global context marked by overall decrease in ODA funding for water, accelerating volatility, where change is rapid and direction uncertain, further amplifying the risks around water-related tensions.

Our vision - A water secure world

Our mission - To support countries in the financing, governance, and management of water resources for sustainable, climate resilient and equitable development.



Strategic Goal 1 – Finance and investments:

Increase the volume, quality, and efficiency of financing to achieve climate resilient water security for all.

By 2030, GWP targets to influence US\$15 billion and mobilise US\$500 million, with at least 30 countries supported to access finance from new sources.

Strategic Goal 2 – Governance:

Improve national water governance and transboundary cooperation in the water and water-related sectors to support the achievement of water security for all.

By 2030, GWP targets to influence 150 water governance improvements and outcomes.

Strategic Goal 3 – Knowledge, Capacity & Data:

Build and increase the capacity of institutions, professionals, service providers and systems, and strengthen the generation, sharing and application of water data and knowledge to accelerate water security for all.

By 2030, GWP targets to support at least 60 countries with improved data to manage water and inform investment decisions and train at least 500 professionals (50% men, 50% women).

5 Intervention areas to achieve our goals



We will scale up global engagement and partnerships

Leadership in global processes

- Global Outlook Council on Water Investments
- United Call for Global Water Investment – GWPO opened its intergovernmental Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)
- Active role in UN processes, including the UN Water Conferences and post-2030 agenda

Programmatic vehicles

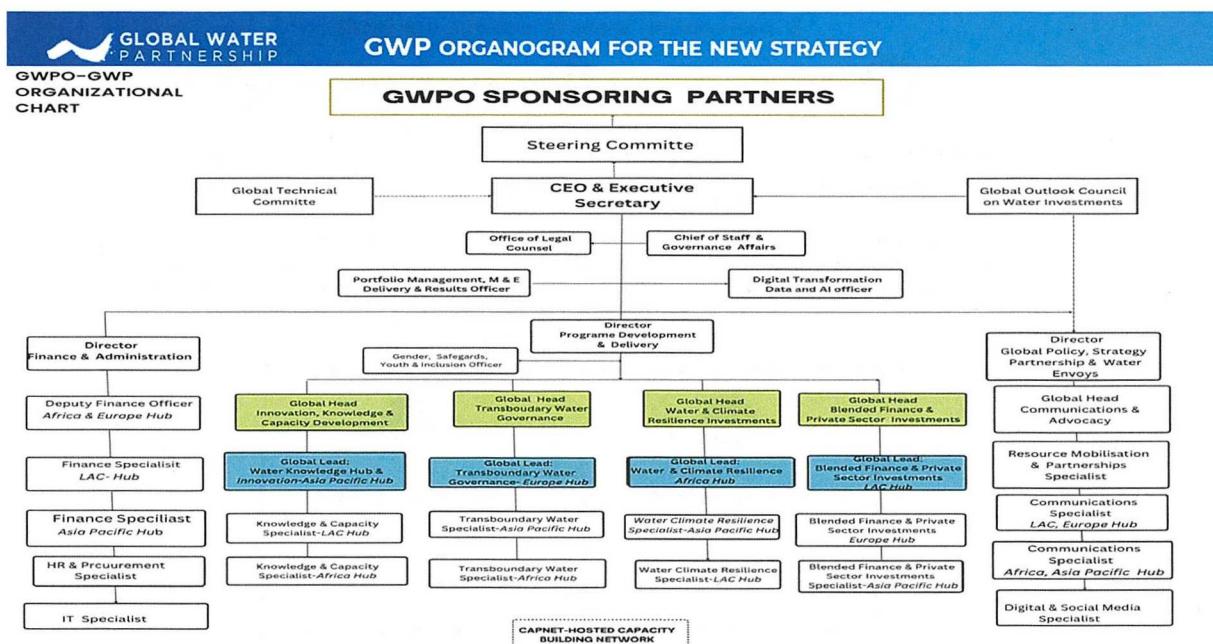
- Global Water Investment Programme (GIP)
- GWP-WMO Associated Programme on Flood Management and Integrated Drought Management Programme

The Nuts and Bolts of Success

Budget and financing:

- Goal: mobilise € 500 million by 2030 with, € 100 M / Continental GIP across Africa, Asia, LAC and Europe and € 100 M for GWPO.
- Focus: climate change-related funding
- Core funding: Engagement with the G20 countries => contributions for GIP
- Additional funding sources: private sector, philanthropy, and individual sponsorship programmes

The Executive Secretary noted that the Organogram for the new strategy would be effective as of February 1st, 2026. Since there is a lack of funding, filling the positions will be a gradual process. Solutions including secondments, internships, voluntary contributions etc will be looked into. It will be difficult to do such a transformation process with very little money but we will find ways to move forward and carry through with the transformation agenda.



Some comments noted:

- Seems like a sound strategy overall. Would recommend making a reference to the Global Commission of Economics of Water in the introduction part.
The Executive Secretary noted that he is very committed to pick up on influencing economic investments.
- Like the fact that it is a very ambitious strategy. To make data more accessible and informative for investments will be crucial to work on during the coming years.
- Advocacy should be strengthened in the new organogram and the CEO needs a deputy. The Deputy CEO should be identified without amending the new organogram, but good to have an identified person who can step in as Deputy.
- What is the investment gap for GWP to fill the organogram?
The Executive Secretary noted that for the new organogram to be implemented fully we look at €2,5million (current organogram positions costs €1,8million). Parts should be based on cost sharing with regions.

2025/GWPSP/June/Decision 6:
The GWP Strategy 2026-2030, including the new Organogram was approved, with comments noted taken into consideration.

8. New Chair of the Sponsoring Partners

The Chair of the Sponsoring Partners, Mr. Tobias Axerup, noted that with Sweden's exit from hosting GWPO, his focus would be on the transition element being handled in a correct and effective manner, as guided by the Swedish Government.

Mr. Axerup's view is that he is not the right person to continue guiding the organisation towards the future, in his present role as Chair of the Sponsoring Partners, and would

therefore, like to resign from his present role as soon as possible. He urged the other members of the Sponsoring Partners to further discuss the topic of who can take on the role as Chair from Sweden. The role can rotate on a regular basis.

9. Any other business, date for SP meeting 2026 and Summary of discussions and decisions:

No further items for discussion were brought forward.

The GWPO Secretariat will come back to the Sponsoring Partners with a date for the June 2026 meeting well in time. An informal ad hoc meeting will be scheduled in September/October for the Sponsoring Partners to engage further in strategic issues and provide guidance to GWPO, as part of the ongoing transformation and transition phase.

Summary of discussions and decisions:

2025/GWPSP/June/Decision 1:

The meeting Agenda was approved.

2025/GWPSP/June/Decision 2:

The GWP Annual Activity Report and the Annual Financial Report for 2024 of the Steering Committee to the Sponsoring Partners were received and approved by the Sponsoring Partners.

The GWP Audit Report 2024 were received and considered by the Sponsoring Partners.

2025/GWPSP/June/Decision 3:

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B. Unanimously approved that the proposed amendments to the GWP and GWPO Statutes will enter into force on 22nd May 2026, one year after the decision of the Network Meeting.

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He urged the other members of the Sponsoring Partners to further discuss the topic of who can take on the role as Chair from Sweden. The role can rotate on a regular basis.

Meeting closure:

The Chair of the Sponsoring Partners thanked everyone for their participation and closed the meeting.



Tobias Axerup
Chair of the Meeting of the Sponsoring Partners